

Minutes of...Meeting to Discuss Policy Council

Details

Date: September 24, 2008

Time: noon

Place: County Government Center, 385 N. Arrowhead Ave., 5th Floor Citrus Room, San Bernardino.

Attendees

- Charles Adams, Community Action Partnership
 - DeAnna Avey-Motikeit, Department of Children's Services
 - Karen Bell, DA – Juvenile Division
 - Mary Lynn Clark, Inland Regional Center
 - Amy Cousineau, Children's Network
 - Chris Gardner, Public Defender – Juvenile Division
 - Rosa Gomez, Department of Behavioral Health
 - Ron Griffin, Preschool Services Department
 - Margaret Hill, San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools
 - Cindy Faulkner, First 5 San Bernardino
 - Jim Lindley, Public Health Department
 - Mike Markel, County Counsel
 - Allan Rawland, Department of Behavioral Health
 - Honorable Marsha Slough, Juvenile Court
 - Lisha Smith, 5th District Board of Supervisors
 - Rebecca Stafford, Children's Fund
 - Nancy Swanson, Transitional Assistance Department
 - Sue Taylor, Children's Network
 - Beatriz Valdez, Grants Coordinator – CAO
 - Kathy Watkins, HS Legislation & Research
 - Greg Zerovnik, San Bernardino County Library Administration
 - Maxwell Ohikhuare, M.D., Department of Public Health
 - Michelle Scray, Juvenile – Probation
 - Randy Higgins, HS Legislation & Research
 - Amber Dukes, HS Legislation & Research
 - Tammy Williams, Children's Network
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Meeting purpose

Judge Slough convened the meeting at 12:10 p.m. Self-introductions were made. **A motion was made to approve the agenda as submitted. A motion was made by Margaret Hill and seconded by Rebecca Stafford to approve the July minutes as they were submitted. August meeting was part 2 of the Strategic Planning Process.**

Topics discussed

The table below identifies the topics discussed in the meeting and the person who led each discussion.

Topic	Discussion Leader
Welcome and Introductions	Slough
Approval of Agenda	Slough
Approval of July 2008 Minutes	Slough
Blue Ribbon Commission Report	Slough
Children's Network Report	Cousineau
Children's Fund Report	Stafford
Discussion/action requested for support of Time for Change Event	Cousineau
Other Announcements	All
Public Comment	None

Actions

Topic	Who is Responsible	Deadline
Amy to draft a Policy to handle requests from the community for financial support.	Amy	For the October 22 nd meeting.
Kathy Watkins agreed to keep this group informed of legislation changes affecting children.	Kathy	On-going
DeAnna asked the DCS SIP (Self-improvement plan) be on the October agenda for presentation purposes.	DeAnna and Amy	October 22, 2008
Allan offered to bring a power point on EPSDT to show at a future meeting.	Allan and Amy	
Cindy Faulkner offered to bring to this meeting next month the Story book with resources on the back for Policy Council members.	Cindy	October 22, 2008

A suggestion was made to have Kathy Watkins report on the RBS work at the October Meeting.	Kathy and Amy	October 22, 2008
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**Key points:
Blue Ribbon
Commission
Report**

The following highlights were given:

- Judge Slough mentioned that the Blue Ribbon Commission Report will be presented on December 10th in San Francisco. The recommendations will be given.
 - This meeting is right before the Beyond the Bench Conference in San Francisco.
 - Judge Slough asked if there were any Policy Council members wanted to go up as a team. Response: Amy Cousineau, Michelle Scray, and Allan Rawland are going.
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**Key points:
Children's
Network
Report**

The following highlights were given:

- Children's Network had the annual conference September 3rd and 4th. Many of you around the table were present and sent staff to volunteer, hope you all had a good experience. Approximately 600 in attendance.
 - Next year we will try to set-up on-line conference registration.
 - Next year's Children's Network Annual Conference will be on September 23rd and 24th at the Ontario Convention Center.
 - The key note speaker for next year will be Andrew Bridge who wrote the book, 'Hope's Boy'. Andrew grew up in foster care in Los Angeles County in the early 70's and 80's. He is now a lawyer and advocates for foster children and has an inspirational story to tell.
 - The Nexus XIII is a top notch training opportunity on October 30th at Universal City. Cost of registration is \$130. **Amy invited 6 Policy Council members to attend with Children's Network as the sponsor, (need to get your name to Tammy as soon as possible).**
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**Key points:
Children's
Fund Report**

The following highlights were given:

- Rebecca mentioned they have been very busy at Children's Fund and have distributed in excess of 1,500 backpacks. The backpacks were distributed countywide.
- Time Warner had approached DeAnna Avey-Motikeit about an event to assist kin care givers. Through this event Children's Fund was able to assist with gift cards, buying clothes and sneakers.
- Tomorrow morning (September 25th), there will be a Press Conference in the Rotunda of the County Government Center with Children's Fund making endowment scholarships to local colleges. There will be some foster children there to receive scholarships.
- Children's Fund will be having an Open House at the Juvenile Court for the Children's Room. There are new toys and furnishings. Light refreshments will be offered. Rebecca invited everyone to come and see the new Children's Room.

**Key points:
Discussion/
Action**

The following highlights were given:

- Amy mentioned that approximately four to five times a year Children's Network is asked for financial support of events by community partners.
 - There is no policy for Children's Network to go by; Amy will develop a draft for Policy Council consideration.
 - Time for Change has requested some support for an event, as they did last year.
 - Request was for \$1,000 to cover printing flyers, conference bags, etc.
 - Several other departments support this very worthwhile event.
 - **A motion was made to support this event by Chris Gardner and seconded by Karen Bell.**
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**Key points:
Other
Announcement**

The following highlights were given:

- Allan and Rosa spoke about the governor's budget and how it will affect ADS (Alcohol Drug Services). The budget will be reduced 3.7 million dollars (1.5 million from the State Prop. 36 Drug Court) and (2.2 million Federal block grants). ADS were cut 1.5 million dollars last year as well. It is anticipated there will be 5.2 million dollars in cuts over the next two years. Prop. 26 sunsets so there will not be any more state funding for the Mentally Crime Offender grant for juveniles.
 - Judge Slough is appreciative of all the coordination of efforts between the Probation Department and DBH (Department of Behavioral Health).
 - Rosa mentioned that they looked at four core areas they needed to maintain funding for; residential care, drug court, children and parents programs, and Perinatal work. It was decided to close two Perinatal Clinics one in Chino and one in the high desert. They are looking at the contract providers they have to see what the best way to serve the clients is.
 - Part of the restructuring will be to have a Resource Center in Rialto that will capture more integrated services for the community. There will also be more of a focus on co-occurring disorders. They also plan to work on the ability to bill Medi-Cal for more of the services they are currently providing.
 - DBH, Public Health Department, and ARMC (Arrowhead Regional Medical Center) have formed a partnership in order to provide more coordinated services by having all three departments at various sites through the county.
 - DeAnna inquired for those on Cal-Works whom have substance abuse problems, will there be funding cuts? Apparently, the budget cuts will not affect this group.
 - Stephen Couchot mentioned that Cal-Works will have cuts of six million dollars from the state, so there will be cuts to service and staff. He should hear more specific details tomorrow. Nancy Swanson has mentioned they will just have to work smarter, even though their caseloads have been increasing significantly.
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- Kathy Watkins stated a major child welfare reform bill has been passed by Congress and is on the path to the President for signing. There could be more assistance for the kin gap program and support for foster youth beyond age 18 – 21.
- The counties in California need to convince the Governor this is the right action to take.
- Another provision is the tribes through a sovereign nation have asked for federal money to run their own foster care, child care, and adoption program. So far only the tribe in Humboldt County is managing their own child welfare program.
- Allan spoke about another funding source they have in DBH is the PEI (Prevention Early Intervention) program. They have approximately 15 million dollars and expect possible another 2 million dollars. The model plan will be presented this Thursday. Some of the programs to get funding will be; NFP (Nurse Family Partnership), Head start program, Healthy Families – DCS (Department of Children's Services) screening, and Veterans program. There will also be three to four family resource centers with focus on; Native American, Asian, and Hispanic populations.
- Michelle Dusick is working on the implementation of these resource centers.
- Allan thanked all those involved in the stakeholders groups for PEI work.
- Judge Slough asked what percentage of the PEI funding goes to children? Response: 63%.
- Rosa mentioned she has been having meetings with the community SART (Screening Assessment Referral Treatment) partners in order to develop the scope of work for the RFP (Request for Proposals) next year. There is also discussion going on to expand SART to two more providers, since there have been such great successes. Rosa is working with the providers on the EPSDT billing as well.

- DeAnna mentioned that on November 8th there will be an Independent City where foster youth transiting out of the system get to have real life experiences.
 - DeAnna mentioned the Adoption Day Finalization event is on November 19th. So far there have been sixty-five families scheduled for the event. More details about the event will be forthcoming.
 - Cindy Faulkner mentioned that First 5 San Bernardino has just completed their Strategic Planning. First 5 San Bernardino's main focus will be on Family Resource Centers and school readiness. The Strategic Plan will go before the Commission on October 15th for adoption. October 2nd will be the kickoff for National Literacy month. First 5 San Bernardino has given out backpacks and the book they are reading with children. There will be a reading event on Thursday, October 2nd. Another big event they have scheduled is November 15th read for to break the Guinness world records. The book is called Corduroy. So far they have 3,900 children scheduled to read.
 - Lisha Smith stated that Supervisor Gonzales wants Policy Council members to keep up the good work, as she really appreciates it.
 - Chris Gardner asked Kathy Watkins if the Policy Council could help the Board of Supervisors in developing their platform for legislation that affects children, especially the new legislation expanding the age for foster care and Probation youth.
 - Margaret Hill mentioned she will be bringing her new boss, Mr. Thomas to the *December* meeting.
 - Dr. Ohikhuare introduced himself as the new Public Health Officer and is glad to see the continuity with this group.
 - Greg Zerovnik mentioned the County Library sold Johnsonville Brauts again this year and record sales.
 - Ron Griffin thanked Allan and Rosa for the great job addressing gaps in funding, so more children can receive head start and state preschool services. Preschool Services is also working on the rollout of the Universal Preschool in San Bernardino County.
 - Thanks to Amy and First 5 San Bernardino for helping make the transition smoother for the clients receiving services in the Central Valley region.
 - Michelle Scray mentioned she has been in contact with the Chief Probation Officer of San Francisco regarding the placements from that county. They have shared placement information back to November 2006. Out of twenty-six children placed in our county eleven were illegal and ten went AWOL after placement. Apparently 58 offenders were placed statewide and 30% ICE says were adults.
 - Kathy Watkins stated the RBS committee is working on the proposal now that is to go to Policy Council and then the Board of Supervisors.
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Allan would like to see the RBS proposal pilot reported on in January, 2009 if the state accepts the pilot. Kathy stated this is just a pilot project and will not affect all group homes in San Bernardino County. It is just more the direction the county would like to see all group home providers begin to take.

- Fifty percent of all group home placements not placed in this county, because there are not suitable placements.
- There was further discussion about not opening any more new group homes in San Bernardino County because of the number of beds not filled now.
- Discussion about developing a Board Agenda Item to show what was accomplished through the two Foster Care Summits, RBS work etc.
- ***DeAnna stated there was no update on the RBS work for this meeting.***
- Kathy mentioned a new Group Home Needs Assessment report was not done this year, as it hasn't changed since the report for 2006.

Next Meeting

October 22, 2008 at noon, County Government Center, 385 N. Arrowhead Ave., 5th Floor Citrus Room, San Bernardino.